

The Puppet Princess or, the Heart that Squeaked

A Christmas Play for Children

By
Augusta Stevenson



Houghton Mifflin Company

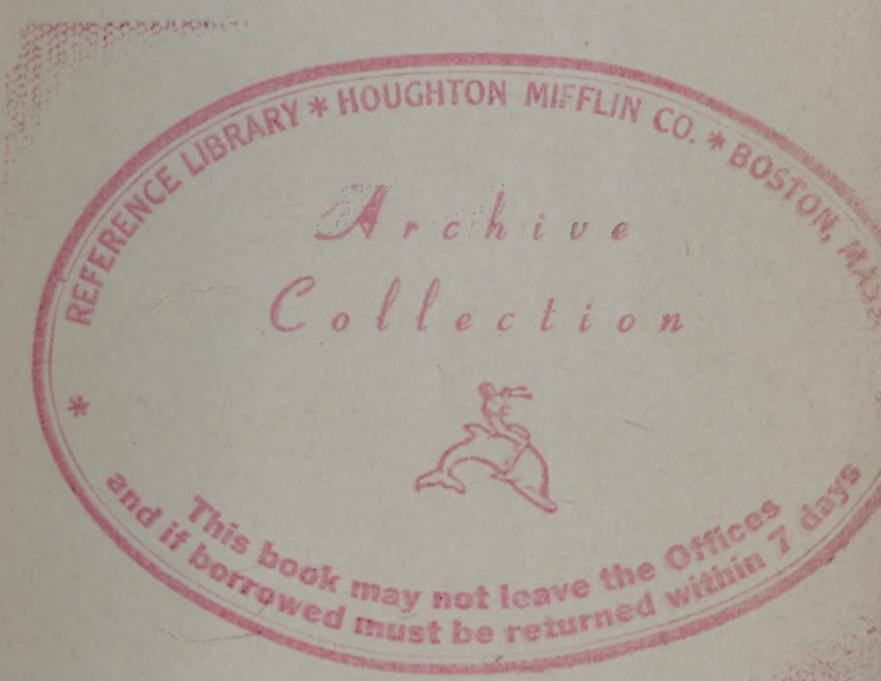
Boston and New York

REFERENCE LIBRARY OF
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
2 PARK STREET, BOSTON



NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THE SHELVES,
EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF
THE LIBRARIAN

The Puppet Princess
or, the Heart that
Squeaked





THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCESS

The Puppet Princess or, the Heart that Squeaked

A Christmas Play for Children

By
Augusta Stevenson



Houghton Mifflin Company
Boston and New York

COPYRIGHT, 1915, BY AUGUSTA STEVENSON

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Published October 1915

The Riverside Press
CAMBRIDGE . MASSACHUSETTS
U . S . A

Note

THE illustrations are reproduced from photographs of models wearing costumes of Dennison crêpe paper. These costumes were designed especially for this play by the Dennison Manufacturing Company of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis. Directions for preparing them will be found at the end of the book. The Dennison Manufacturing Company will make them to order if desired.

Characters

Santa Claus	Princess
King	Queen
Prince	Witch
Hans	Gretel
Goblin	Goody
Porter	Old Lady
Beggar Girl	
Cousins and Pages	

The Puppet Princess or, The Heart that Squeaked

TIME:— *A long time ago. Christmas Eve.*

PLACE:— *The good King's castle. A court is seen with pillars; doors or curtains to castle at back; stone table and bench at side. Curtain shows Hans and his daughter Gretel entering court. Both wear gay costumes. Hans is thirty years old. Gretel is ten years. Both carry puppet boxes suspended from neck by cords. As they advance, Hans blows a trumpet. Doors at back open; enter Porter.*

PORTER

Well, well, why blow ye here? Why blow ye here?

HANS

We come to show our puppets, sir.
To show them to the King and Queen—

to show them to the little Prince — to all within this castle. Wilt tell them we are here, sir ?

PORTER

I cannot tell them now, sir. They 're having a Christmas party within, and I like not to disturb them. Know you not 't is Christmas Eve ?

HANS

Aye, and we 've brought our puppets to entertain the little Prince and his thirteen little cousins.

PORTER

I know they would love to see them, but the party has just begun — the Prince is preparing to hang his stockings up and so are his little cousins. I should n't like to go in now.

HANS

But His Majesty sent for us to come.

PORTER

Oh, then, that is different! I 'll tell them at once — of course I will. But

just let me have a peep at thy puppets first.

(*Hans lifts curtain to his box. Porter looking.*)

Ha, ha! There 's Punch and Judy all ready for to quarrel again! Ha, ha! I 'll tell the King.—Wait here — you 'll hear His Majesty's trumpets.

(*Exit to palace, laughing. Hans placing boxes on table; arranging them; trying strings, etc.*)

HANS

Now then, 't is all in order for the Prince, and King and Queen.

GRETEL

(*Anxiously.*) Dost think they will wish to pull the strings themselves, father?

HANS

'T is very like they will, my child.

GRETEL

Oh, I hope they will leave my puppet alone!

HANS

Why, Gretel? Why leave it alone?

GRETEL

They might make her dance too long.

HANS

Too long? Now how could puppets
dance too long? They have no sense or
feeling.

GRETEL

I almost think my puppet has. Some-
times she seems real to me. And some-
times I almost wish she were alive,
father.

HANS

(*In alarm.*) Gretel! Thou must not
wish that! It might come true. Listen—
yesterday, a Goody who was passing
by, told me something new and strange.
She said that whatever a good heart
wished—that thing in time would come
to pass.

GRETEL

The wish come true?



THE PORTER



GRETTEL.



HANS

HANS

Aye, if wished by a good heart, mind.
Now thou hast a good heart, Gretel;
thy mother has always said so. So be-
ware for what things thou dost wish—
they might come true, my daughter.

GRETEL

Dost think I could wish my puppet to
life?

HANS

Aye, I do.

GRETEL

Then let me wish, father! Please let
me wish!

HANS

No, no, Gretel! No, no! Thou hast
learned to dance thy doll with much
skill; she brings us many a penny. So
leave thy puppet as she is.

(*Trumpets heard. Doors open.*)

(*Enter Porter*)

PORTER

The King! The King!

(*Hans and Gretel kneel.*)

(Enter the King in satin, a gold crown wobbling upon his head)

KING

Arise, and show me your puppets!
Quick—I can hardly wait to see them!

HANS

(Pulling strings.) Here are Punch and Judy, Sire.

KING

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! Let me pull the strings now!

(Hans steps aside. King works puppets.)

Ha, ha! What fun I now am having!
I love to pull the strings, I do! 'T is better than rich plum pudding.

(King crosses; looks in Gretel's box.)

Aha! What kind of a puppet have we here? She's dressed just like a Princess.

GRETEL

And she dances like a Princess, Sire.
See!

(Pulls strings. Puppet dances. King



THE KING

*laughs loud and long and dances
in front of box, imitating puppet's
dancing.)*

KING

Beautiful! I never saw a real Princess who could dance like that. Beautiful — beautiful — beautiful! Here, let me dance her now.

*(Gretel steps back, but unwillingly.
King pulls strings, peeping over into
box and laughing.)*

Look, how fast she's dancing now!
I'll make her go faster still, I will!

*(Pulls strings violently. Gretel shows
alarm.)*

She's spinning round and round like
a top. I'll make her dance faster than
that even.

*(As before. Gretel is in agony. Hans
prevents her from stopping King.)*

I must have thy Princess, maid. I'll
buy her from thee this minute.

GRETEL

I — I do not wish to sell her, Sire.

10 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
 KING

What! I am King, Miss, over all this land. I'll buy anything that I fancy. Here's a bag of gold for her.

(Tosses bag to Gretel, who does not try to catch it. Hans picks it up quickly.)

HANS

We thank thee, Sire, we thank thee.

KING

'T is well. And now I will fetch the Queen and Prince and the Prince's little cousins. And you both may go. I'll work the puppets myself, I will. 'T will be the best part of our party. Next Christmas Eve you may come again and bring to me new puppets, for these will be quite worn out by then. Oh, all worn out—I promise you. So farewell, my friends. Next Christmas Eve, remember!

*(Exit to palace. Gretel runs to her box.
Hans takes up his.)*

HANS

Come, Gretel, we must go now.

GRETEL

Didst see how he pulled and jerked her about?

HANS

Thou art foolish. Come.

GRETEL

If she were only a real Princess she could run away when mistreated. *I wish* —

HANS

Stop! Stop! Thou must not wish! Thou must not turn that puppet to life. She helps us earn our living. Come, come, come!

(*He is dragging Gretel away when the Porter enters.*)

PORTER

Wait—I want to see Punch and Judy again. I'll go with thee to the outer gate. I want to know how ye make them, sir. I want to know all about it.

(*Walks with Hans. Gretel falls behind.*)

12 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR
HANS*

I am glad thou art so interested. I'll tell thee everything, everything.

PORTER

'Tis curious now about these strings — very, very curious.

(*They disappear. Gretel steps behind a pillar. Pause. She runs to box.*) .

GRETEL

I wish — I wish — I wish thou wouldst into a real live Princess turn !

(*Darkness falls. Returning light shows a living Princess standing on table in front of box. Gretel is delighted.*)

Oh ! Oh ! Oh !

PRINCESS

(*Looking about.*) Well, 't is very pretty here. I like it better than the box, Gretel.

GRETEL

Thou dost know, then, what thou wast ?

PRINCESS

Of course, and I'm glad thou hast turned me to life.

HANS

(Calling, off.) Gretel! Gretel!

(Enter Hans hastily)

Come, come! (Sees Princess; starts.)
Gretel! Thou hast wished — ?

GRETEL

Aye, father. And she came to life
immediately.

HANS

Alas, alas! The King will cut our
heads off.

PRINCESS

Be not so sad. I'll dance for thee to
cheer thee up.

(Dances; squeaks; stops quickly.)

Why, I squeaked! Didst hear?

HANS

Perhaps the squeaking did not come
from thee. Dance again.

(Princess dances; squeaks.)

PRINCESS

Ah, but it does. 'T is right in here.

(Placing hand over her heart.)

14 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
 GRETEL

She never squeaked at all before. What is it, father? What is it?

HANS

(*Excited.*) I think I know! Gretel, tell me — when thou wished, didst wish for her a heart full of kindness and good deeds?

GRETEL

Why, no — I thought the heart went with the rest.

HANS

Nay, hearts have to be made, my dear.

PRINCESS

What is it, then? What ails me?

HANS

'T is this — thou hast still thy puppet heart of wood. So it must be that that squeaks.

PRINCESS

Well, 'tis something inside me very deep.

(*Trumpets heard, off, and shouts.*)

HANS

'T is the King and Queen and little Prince! Come, Gretel, come! We must run to save our heads, dear!

GRETEL

(*Going: to Princess.*) Run away if they mistreat thee!

(*Runs off with Hans. Trumpets; shouts, off.*)

PRINCESS

(*Alarmed.*) I'll run away at once, I will!

(*Jumps from table and hides behind a pillar. Doors at back open.*)

(Enter King, Queen, Prince, and thirteen Cousins. The Queen is tall and haughty. She wears a trained dress, gold crown, and gold shoes. The Prince is ten years old; is handsome, manly, and good. He wears a gold crown and gold sword and carries a pair of his stockings. The Cousins are boys and girls from six to eight years old. They are prettily dressed and each carries a pair of his stockings. The doors are left open disclosing the castle hall, blazing with lighted

16 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR
candles and hung with Christmas garlands
and wreaths.)*

KING

Now, then, I 'll show you the dancing
puppet, dears. I know you 'll laugh your
heads quite off — just exactly as I did.
But first hang up your stockings for Santa
to fill. He may come now any minute.

(*Prince and cousins hang stockings on
a ribbon tied to a pillar and stretched
across court at one side.*)

Now, then, are you ready ?

CHILDREN

Aye! Aye!

KING

Then look at this puppet dancing !

(*Queen and children stare into empty
box in silence.*)

Why don't you laugh ?

QUEEN

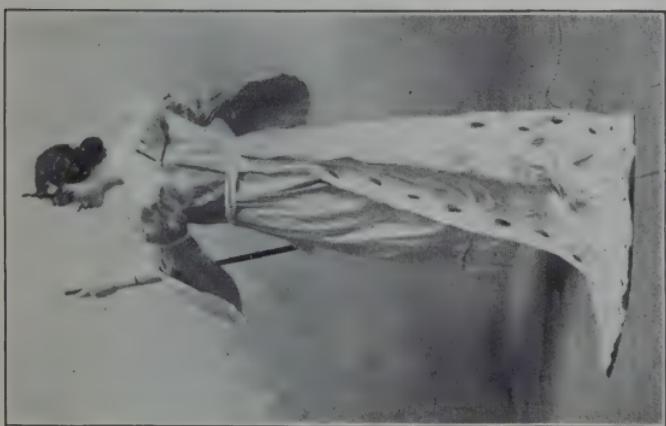
There 's nothing there to laugh at,
Sire.

PRINCE

The box is empty, father.



A COUSIN



THE QUEEN



THE PRINCE

Cousins

Aye! Aye!

KING

Empty!

(*Looks into box: shows surprise.*)

Now, how is this? Where has she gone?
Where can she be?

PRINCESS

Here I am, Your Majesty.

(*Others jump with surprise.*)

KING

What! Why, I cannot understand it!

QUEEN

Where didst thou come from, stranger?

PRINCESS

Out of that box.

QUEEN

(*Jumping.*) Out of that box!

PRINCESS

Aye, I used to live there.

KING

She looks like the puppet exactly.

QUEEN

Then she is a puppet!

PRINCE

But she talks! How can she be a puppet?

COUSINS

Aye! Aye!

PRINCESS

I was a puppet ten minutes ago, but I am one no longer. Gretel wished me into life and lo, I was breathing as you are.

QUEEN

Well, be that as it may, thou hast spoiled our Christmas party. Thou wast to dance for us in thy box.

PRINCESS

I can dance for you out of it just as well, I have n't forgot my whirling.

(Dances, and squeaks louder and louder with every whirl. Others put their hands to their ears.)

KING

Stop! Stop!

COUSINS

Stop! Stop!

QUEEN

Stop! It hurts my very ear drums!

PRINCESS

(Stopping.) I regret I squeak so badly.
I would that I could stop it.

QUEEN

Well, as I said before, thou hast spoiled our party completely. We have no way now to entertain our guests till Santa Claus comes; I'm bitterly disappointed. In fact, Sire, I think the girl should be turned back to a puppet and put in her box and dance to the strings as we pull them.

PRINCESS

No! No! Don't turn me back to a puppet—please! Don't! Don't! Don't! I beg you!

PRINCE

Don't turn her back, dear mother! I'd like her to live in this castle with us and play with me and my cousins.

PRINCESS

Why could n't I be a cousin too ?

KING

Ha, ha ! Did you hear that, Queen dear ?

QUEEN

Cousin, indeed ! Why, she is naught but a puppet ! And a puppet once, always a puppet.

KING

Well, but, my dear, is n't it possible for folks to change ?

QUEEN

No ; every one is what he was made to be, and never can be any other. That puppet can't stay in the palace with me, who was born a Queen on a throne, Sire.

PRINCESS

Excuse me, but I mean to stay. I like the nice little Prince there.

KING

Ha, ha ! She 's a smart little girl, I see.

PRINCE

I want her to stay, dear mother; I'd like her to live here forever.

QUEEN

Sire, she's bewitching the Prince! This thing must be settled at once. And I know the way to do it.

(Crosses. Knocks three times on a pillar.)

KING

Why dost thou knock on that pillar, my dear?

QUEEN

I am calling the Witch, the old Court Witch, who lives underneath in the cellar.

PRINCE

Please don't call her up here! She'll work some harm on the Princess.

KING

Don't let her come! She scares me nearly to death, dear...

22 THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR
QUEEN

She must come. She'll know what to do with the stranger.

(Knocks as before. Three muffled knocks heard off.)

She knocks! Dost hear? That means she is coming.

(Thunder, lightning. Pillar opens showing Witch. She comes forward. Pillar closes.)

WITCH

What wilt thou of me, Queen?

QUEEN

Witch — Witch — a boon I beg!

WITCH

Speak and I will answer.

QUEEN

Please tell us what to do with that maid. She confesses she came out of the box there.

WITCH

Aha! Didst live in that box?

PRINCESS

(Frightened.) Yes, Witch —

WITCH

An' why didst thou live there all alone?

PRINCESS

(*In a trembling voice.*) I — I —
could n't help myself —

WITCH

An' what didst thou do in the box?

PRINCESS

(*Teeth chattering.*) I — I — danced —

WITCH

Dance for me — this instant — Miss!

PRINCESS

I cannot, Witch — I squeak.

OTHERS

Aye! She squeaks! She squeaks!

WITCH

Ha, ha! Dance, dance! I'd love to
hear thee squeak, I would! Dance, dance,
dance!

(*Princess dances, squeaks, stops.*)

Ha, ha, ha, ha! Well, 't is easy to
know what to do, Queen.

QUEEN

What dost thou advise, Witch ?

WITCH

I'll turn her into a puppet and put her back in her box there.

PRINCESS

(*Screaming.*) Oh ! Oh !

PRINCE

No ! No !

KING

Not without my permission, Witch — not without my permission.

WITCH

Wouldst give it didst know she was wicked ?

KING

Aye — I'd be obliged to. But how can she be wicked ? She's only been alive a few minutes.

WITCH

No matter. The trouble is in her heart, which is no real heart at all with its proper feelings of kindness and love.

'T is a puppet's heart she has within and
't is made of naught but wood — wood —
wood!

*(Pounds on floor with cane each time
she says wood.)*

OTHERS

(Jumping.) Wood ?

WITCH

Aye, her heart was not changed when
she was. So 't is her wooden heart that
squeaks and a squeaking heart is always
bad. It will bring trouble here upon all
of you.

KING

Mercy on us!

COUSINS

Mercy on us !

QUEEN

What trouble will it bring to us ?

WITCH

I can tell you the first thing easily.
Saint Nicholas will not come to-night
with presents for these children.

COUSINS

(*Alarmed.*) Oh! Oh!

KING

Dear me, that is dreadful! Saint Nicholas never misses us — never — never — never!

WITCH

I say he will pass you by to-night. He will not go near a wooden heart, for he knows that it is selfish. So, (*to Prince and cousins*) your stockings will be empty.

COUSINS

(*Sadly.*) Oh! Oh!

KING

Dear me — dear me! — What are we to do, Queen?

QUEEN

Let the Witch change the girl and put her into her box there.

WITCH

Aye! I can change her back in one minute.

PRINCESS

(*Frightened.*) No! No!

PRINCE

Don't let them change her, father!
I'll give up my Christmas party, and I
care not if my stocking is empty this year.

QUEEN

(*Displeased.*) Hoity — toity ! That is
no way to talk, son. Thy cousins cannot
have their Christmas spoiled. She must
be changed and at once, before it is time
for Santa Claus. Witch, prepare to change
her back.

(*The Witch reaches out her hand to
grasp the Princess, but the girl eludes
her and runs to the King.*)

PRINCESS

Sire, she should not change me with-
out a fair trial !

PRINCE

Aye! Aye !

PRINCESS

Let her prove that my heart is wood,
not good !

28 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR
PRINCE*

Aye, father!

KING

That seems reasonable. So, Witch, thou must prove it.

WITCH

'T is easily done. I know a way to test her heart.

KING

Proceed at once with your test, Witch.

WITCH

Please to go out, then,—all but the Queen. Dance and squeak, thou puppet!

(*All go out but Queen and Witch.*

Princess dances out, squeaking.)

Now, Queen, this is the test we will make. Come close, come close, I'll whisper.

(*Whispering to Queen. Strange hissing sounds heard.*)

Dost understand?

QUEEN

(*Nodding.*) Aye—'t is a very good plan, I think.



THE BEGGAR GIRL



THE WITCH

WITCH

And hark—

(Whispering; hissing sounds.)

QUEEN

(Nodding.) Aye! Aye! I'll bring her in immediately.

WITCH

Wait till I draw the curtain.

(Draws a curtain across court, making two rooms of equal size. Table, stool, and bench in room on right. Witch crosses to room on left to a corner.)

Now, here in this corner will I stand. Over there will be the stranger.

QUEEN

(Nodding.) And there she will be tested.

WITCH

(Nodding.) Aye; and every time she does an unkind act, I'll step one step forward. Like this—I'll—step.

(Stepping one step forward.)

QUEEN

When wilt thou claim her?

30 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
 WITCH

When I 've stepped from here to the curtain. And woe unto her if I get there! She 'll be mine then— mine to charm, enchant, and change! Ha, ha, ha, ha! Now, then, I am ready. Fetch in the maid.

QUEEN

Aye, I 'll fetch her.

(*Exit. Short pause; Witch waits impatiently.*)

(*Enter Queen and Princess. Queen carries a large pudding. Places it on table.*)

QUEEN

Now, here is something for thee to eat whilst the test is being got ready. I hope thou dost like plum pudding?

PRINCESS

I 've never eaten any food—I 'll tell thee in one moment.

(*Tastes pudding; shows joy; dives into it greedily.*)

QUEEN

I 'll leave thee for a little while, maid.

(*Princess, paying no attention to Queen, eats pudding frantically. Exit Queen, pleased. Pause.*)

(*Enter little beggar girl, ragged and pale*)

BEGGAR

Please give me to eat, dear Princess.
I am hungry, ah, so hungry !

PRINCESS

(*Rising.*) Begone !

BEGGAR

A bite to eat, I pray thee !

PRINCESS

Begone ! Begone !

(*Pushing beggar from court. Witch steps one step forward. Princess sits ; eats. Pause.*)

(*Enter an old, old lady, gentle and sweet ; wears an old shawl pinned over head*)

OLD LADY

Please let me rest on thy bench, dear.

32 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
 PRINCESS

(Rising.) No ; thou canst not rest here.

OLD LADY

I 've come from far — I go to far — I have no friends or relatives. I must rest me or I perish.

PRINCESS

Out with thee. Out! Out! And away!

(Pushes old lady from court. Witch steps one step forward. Princess locks door.)

I 'll let no one enter, that I won't! They 'll all want my plum pudding. My, my! how I love to eat!

(Twirls in her joy ; squeaks.)

(Enter the Goblin Doctor with his medicine case. He wears a bright green suit, yellow cap, and yellow shoes. Watches Princess dancing. She turns, sees Goblin.)

Who art thou ?

GOBLIN

I am the Goblin Doctor. I heard thy squeaking underground, and I came up to stop it.

PRINCESS

How wilt thou do it, Doctor ?

GOBLIN

I have an oil made by Goblins ten thousand years ago — 't is very rare and costly.

(*Takes a small vial from case ; holds it aloft.*)

There 's no more in all the world, but I 'll give thee enough to cure thee. Drink, half, just half, and not one drop more.

PRINCESS

(*Taking bottle.*) What wilt thou do with the other half ?

GOBLIN

I must save it for my sick Goblins.

(*Princess drinks oil.*)

There — that is half ! Give me back the bottle now.

PRINCESS

If half is good, all is better. I 'll keep the other half myself.

(*Puts bottle in her pocket.*)

34 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
 GOBLIN
Hast thou no gratitude ?

PRINCESS
Gratitude ? And what is that ? I have
thy oil. Begone !

GOBLIN
(*Going.*) I did not know 'twas thy heart
that needed mending. Thou wilt squeak
just as thou didst before.

(*Princess dances ; squeaks ; stops.*)

PRINCESS
Why, an' so I do ! Hast no oil for
hearts ?

GOBLIN
There 's no oil made to cure thee. I
pray thee give me the bottle !

PRINCESS
No ! No ! Begone ! Begone !

(*Pushes Goblin out. Witch takes one
step forward. Princess sits down to
the pudding. Re-enter Goblin.*)

Why dost thou come here again ?

GOBLIN

The Queen sent me to tell thee that Santa Claus has just passed us by. He drove his sleigh right over our roof, but did not stop one instant.

PRINCESS

(*Alarmed.*) Is the Queen angry?

GOBLIN

Her eyes flash fire and she gnashes her teeth together. And hark to the cousins weeping!

(*Opens door. Cousins heard weeping, off.*)

PRINCESS

Oh, my! 'T will mean the end of me, I fear! What says the King?

GOBLIN

His Majesty is disappointed. I have never seen him feel so bad. And over and over he repeats — “Saint Nicholas has never passed us by before — never — never — never.”

PRINCESS

What says the Prince?

GOBLIN

He is very sad about it, too, but he begs them to let you live.

PRINCESS

Dost think they will ?

GOBLIN

Not unless thou dost get a heart that is so perfectly good, it will not squeak.

PRINCESS

How can I get such a thing as that ?

GOBLIN

Give me mine oil and thou wilt know for thyself.

PRINCESS

Indeed, I will not give it up, I will keep what I have got, sir.

(*Witch steps one step forward.*)

GOBLIN

Then I cannot help thee. So go back to thy pudding and eat. Thou will not be eating much longer.

(*He springs out. The Princess is troubled.*)



THE GOBLIN

PRINCESS

'T will be very sad not to eat pudding.

(Enter a Goody dressed in white. She leads a white cat.)

GOODY

(Pleasantly.) Good Morrow, little maid, good Morrow!

PRINCESS

Who art thou, old dame?

GOODY

I am a Goody, and this is my cat whose heart is as white as her fur is. I live in the meadow just beyond, and so we are thy neighbors.

PRINCESS

And what is that to me, I'd ask?

GOODY

What? Why, I thought to be neighborly. In fact, I came to ask thee to keep my cat for a little while. I must be away from home some hours.

38 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
PRINCESS

I will not keep thy cat one hour! I 'll
not keep her here one minute! Dost thou
hear? Not one single minute!

(*Witch steps one step forward.*)

GOODY

I am very sorry thou dost feel that
way. But I will not hold it against thee.
And if thou ever hast any trouble, come
to me. Goodies know how to cure sorrow.

(*Turns to go.*)

PRINCESS

Stay! Canst thou tell me how to cure
my heart of squeaking?

GOODY

Of a certainty I can tell thee. 'T is
something I have studied long and stud-
ied hard in many lands and languages.

PRINCESS

Tell me, then! Quick — tell me!

GOODY

Wilt thou keep my cat whilst I am
away?

PRINCESS

I have nothing here to feed it.

GOODY

Yon pudding will do nicely.

PRINCESS

I need the pudding for myself.

GOODY

Very well, then. I bid thee good day.

(Going with cat. Princess runs after her.)

PRINCESS

Wait! Wait! I'll keep thy cat if thou wilt tell me how to cure my heart.

GOODY

And wilt thou promise to feed her well? 'T is time now for her supper.

PRINCESS

Yes—yes—I promise thee. Now tell me how to mend my heart.

GOODY

When I return, I'll tell thee.

PRINCESS

Tell me now — I bid thee !

GOODY

(*Severely.*) No. I 'll tell thee when I said so. Till then, good-bye. Good-bye, dear cat ! I 'll see thee when the sun sets.

(*Exit. The Princess looks at the cat and frowns. Witch lifts foot to step forward. Pause.*)

PRINCESS

Well, I must feed thee, I suppose.

(*Witch puts foot down slowly. Princess cuts small piece of pudding : takes half to cat.*)

'T is foolish to waste this pudding on thee — I 've a notion not to do it.

(*Holds pudding aloft. Witch holds foot up ready to step forward. She is just two steps from curtain. Pause. Princess sighs sadly.*)

I 'm afraid the Goody would find it out. Here, cat, thou canst have it.

(*Gives pudding to cat. Witch frowns and steps one little step backward. Cat eats pudding. Smiles at Princess.*)

Why, how pleased this cat does look !
Kittie, kittie, it makes me happy to see
thee. I 'll feed thee more, I will, I will.

*(Gives cat larger piece. Witch steps
another little step backward. Cat
smiles at Princess.)*

Why, I believe this cat is smiling at
me ! Art thou, dear kittie, art thou ? I 'll
feed thee all thou canst eat, I will !

*(Feeds cat. Witch steps another step
backward. Princess laughs and rubs
her chest.)*

I never felt like this before — so happy
— oh — so happy ! There 's something
growing up in me — I can feel it — it is
sprouting. 'T is full of feeling, too, this
thing. Oh, 't is wonderful — most won-
derful ! Dear me, I am sorry I took the
Goblin's oil, and I 'm sorry about the old
lady and girl. This thing within me is
sorry. I 'll call the Goblin back, I will !

(Runs to door ; calls.)

Goblin ! Goblin — Come back ! Come
back ! Swift as lightning travel !

(Takes bottle from pocket.)

I've called the Goblin, kittie. This thing within me says I must give the oil back. It seems to speak to me, it does.

(*Enter Goblin, springing in*)

GOBLIN

I heard — I flew — I 'm here, Princess!

PRINCESS

Oh, I 'm so glad thou hast come! I am sorry I took thy oil, Doctor. Here it is — I hope it will cure thy sick Goblins.

(*Goblin takes bottle. Witch steps one step backward.*)

GOBLIN

I thank thee, Princess. If there is anything I can do for thee, on the wings of the wind, I 'll hasten.

PRINCESS

Wilt ask the old lady to return here to rest? Wilt take pudding to a girl beggar?

GOBLIN

Aye; I will and gladly.

(*Princess gives pudding to Goblin. Witch steps one step backward. Exit Goblin. Princess rubs her chest.*)



THE PRINCESS

PRINCESS

This thing is growing more and more.
I wonder what it can be!

(Enter the old lady)

OLD LADY

I've come, Princess, I've come.

PRINCESS

Dear, sweet, old lady, come here and rest. Thou mayst sleep all night on my bench, if thou wilt.

(Leads lady to bench. Takes off her own satin skirt and makes a pillow of it; puts it under old lady's head; tucks the shawl about her. Witch steps one step backward into her corner. Princess clutches at her heart.)

My! My! This thing within grows larger! My girdle is too tight by half!

(Removes girdle; throws it down. Witch groans.)

WITCH

(Calling sadly.) Come, King! Come, Queen! Come, Prince! Come all!

44 *THE PUPPET PRINCESS OR*
*(Enter King, Queen, Prince, Goody, and
Cousins)*

KING

Well, the test is over, maid, and the question now is — Hast thou a good heart?

PRINCE

(*Taking up girdle.*) The Princess has a good heart, she has, and besides, 't is extra large! Behold! (Holding girdle aloft.) She cannot wear her girdle!

QUEEN

I'll not believe it! That I won't!

PRINCE

Dance for her, dear Princess, dance!

(*Princess dances, not squeaking.*)

KING

Not a squeak! Not a teenty-weenty squeak!

QUEEN

Witch, what art thou doing? Enter, quick, and change the maid!

(Enter Witch in a dreadful state, sighing ;
moaning ; wringing her hands)

WITCH

I cannot touch the Princess, Queen.
No charm will work upon her now — no
charm can change a kind, good heart.

QUEEN

'T is true ? She has a real heart ?

WITCH

Aye. She has been changed completely.

GOODY

'T was feeding my cat that changed
her.

QUEEN

Well, well ! I did not know that folks
could change — I am very much aston-
ished.

PRINCESS

May I not live with thee now, dear
Queen, and be a real live Princess ?

PRINCE

Say yes, mother, please ! Say yes —
say yes !

KING

Please, please let her stay — I ask it.

QUEEN

Well, now that I know her heart is good, she may stay with us forever.

PRINCESS

Oh! That makes me happy, so happy!

(Twirls, dances.)

WITCH

Alack! Alack! Alack!

(Thunder. Pillar opens. Witch enters it moaning. Pillar closes.)

KING

(Sighing with relief.) Well, now, 't would all be well were it not for those empty stockings. *(To Cousins.)* Do you, indeed, feel very bad?

COUSINS

(Sadly, pressing little handkerchiefs to eyes.) Oh! Oh!

QUEEN

'T is a sad Christmas for them, poor dears.

COUSINS

(*As before.*) Oh! Oh!

PRINCESS

And to think it is all my fault! I am sorry — so very, very sorry. But I'm sure Saint Nicholas will come to you next year.

KING

But next year is not this year.

QUEEN

And never was and never, never can be. Those poor dear empty stockings!

COUSINS

(*As before.*) Oh! Oh!

(*Enter Goblin, springing in*)

GOBLIN

Santa Claus is coming back! Listen now to his sleigh bells!

(*All listen. Sleigh bells heard, off, faintly; then nearer and nearer. All show joy.*)

QUEEN

'T is Santa, indeed! I know his bells!

KING

Aye, indeed, 't is Santa!

COUSINS

Oh! Oh!

GOBLIN

He has twelve pages with him, and
each one rides a reindeer!

COUSINS

Oh! Oh!

*(Bells heard, just out, and a clatter of
hoofs.)*

SANTA

(Off.) Stop, deer! Stop! Stop!

*(Clatter ceases. The King opens door
wider.)**(Enter Santa Claus with pack of toys on his
back. He is followed by twelve pages who
are dressed in bright red and who are very
nimble.)*

OTHERS

(Waving handkerchiefs.) Welcome,
Santa! Welcome!

SANTA

Merry Christmas to you all!



SANTA CLAUS

OTHERS

Merry Christmas, Santa!

SANTA

Now, where is that Puppet Princess?

PRINCESS

(*Curtsying.*) Here I am, dear Santa. I am so glad thou didst come back to us.

SANTA

I turned when thou didst begin to feed the cat. I hastened when thou gavest the Goblin his oil, and when thy girdle thou didst take off, I came back like a whirlwind. Ye see, King and Queen, I can't abide a selfish heart, but a good heart will bring me from anywhere. Here, pages, here ; take off my pack.

(*Pages remove pack.*)

Now, please to fill those stockings full and give presents to the King and Queen and don't forget the Princess. And then go through this castle and give something to every one. And say to every

man and woman and boy and girl, that I wish for them with all my heart a very merry Christmas!

(Pages scamper about, nimbly filling stockings and giving presents to all.)

CURTAIN

The Costumes

The Costumes

THE costumes suggested for the play, "The Puppet Princess," are taken from the mediæval period. They have been designed by the Dennison Manufacturing Company and produced entirely from paper.

The new Dennison Crêpe is a wonderful material, as soft as velvet and very strong. So great a variety of colors cannot be found in any other material except high-priced fabrics. The paper is easy to handle in making costumes and is durable for actual wear.

A slip of cotton or lawn for the ladies and a pair of inexpensive pajamas for the gentlemen serve as foundations upon which to work. The paper may be plaited by hand or machine, may be sewed or stitched; in fact, may be treated exactly like cloth without damage.

GRETEL wears a brilliant dress of orange with bands of brown and blue for trimming. Her little white apron is edged with lace, and she wears a wide black girdle laced with satin ribbons.

Material required:

2 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 65, orange.

1 fold " " " " 72, dark brown.

1 " " " " " 11, white.

1 " " " " " 12, black.

1 dozen square lace-paper doilies.

Black ribbon — lining for girdle.

Cost (including Dennison paste), \$1.00.

HANS wears a blue smock trimmed with brown rings, belted in at the waist by a wide brown belt with a

silver buckle. His pantaloons are brown in color, gathered at the knee.

Material required:

- 1 fold Dennison Crêpe No. 54, blue.
- 1 " " " " 72, brown.
- 1 sheet silver paper.

Cost (including Dennison paste), 35c.

The PORTER's buff-colored smock is cut up the sides and edged with yellow and brown trimming; the sleeves, which are full to the elbow, are grass green in color, as are also his pantaloons. With this costume he wears a loose yellow sash trimmed with tassels, and a tight-fitting yellow cap.

Material required:

- 1 fold Dennison Crêpe No. 44, grass green.
- 1 " " " " 71, light brown.
- 1 " " " " 61, yellow.
- 1 " " " " 72, dark brown.

1 cardboard band for cap.

Cost (including Dennison paste), 55c.

The PRINCESS's costume is made in four pieces: white guimpe with silver trimming, pink tunic bordered with silver, finely plaited pink skirt, and plaited white underskirt. The tunic is cut in turret effect below the waist-line and each panel edged with white-and-silver trimming about an inch and a half wide. The waist-line, neck, and sleeves are outlined in the same manner. The Princess also wears a bandeau of silver in her hair, with a pink rose at one side.

Material required:

- 1 fold Dennison Crêpe No. 11, white.
- 2 folds " " " 34, coral pink.
- 8 sheets white tissue.
- 4 bottles silver flitter or metallics.
- 2 rolls narrow silver passepartout binding.

3 narrow cardboard bands for bandeau.

Rose leaves.

Cost (including Dennison paste and glue), \$1.30.

The KING's long black robe is lined with salmon pink and edged with wide bands of ermine, and he also wears a shoulder cape of the royal fur. His crown is of gold studded with jewels.

Material required:

2 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 12, black.

1 fold " " " 36, salmon pink.

1 " " " 11, white.

1 " " " 61, yellow.

1 sheet cardboard.

1 sheet gold paper.

1 sheet gummed paper each, dark blue, light blue, and red.

1 bottle gold flitter or metallics.

Lining for cape.

Cost (including Dennison paste and glue), \$1.15.

The QUEEN's gown is made Empire style in a combination of pale yellow and turquoise blue. It has a white lace bolero and is trimmed with gold braid and fancy buttons. The sleeves are full to the elbow, slashed yellow over blue, and have a long flowing cuff. The train, which is attached at the shoulders, below a high ruff of lace, is made of blue material lined with yellow and edged with ermine; and is two yards long. A blue girdle with silver tassels completes the costume. The Queen's crown, made of gold and set with turquoise and rubies, should be smaller than that which the King wears.

Material required:

3 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 51½, blue.

2 " " " 61, yellow.

1 fold " " " 11, white.

- 1 fold Dennison Crêpe No. 12, black.
- 1 bottle silver flitter or metallics.
- 1 dozen lace paper doilies.
- 1 roll narrow gold passepartout binding.
- 1 dozen round disks for buttons.
- 1 package silver lametta for tassels.
- 1 sheet gold paper.
- 1 sheet gummed paper each, red and light blue.
- 1 bottle gold flitter or metallics.

Cost (including Dennison paste and glue), \$1.70. The little PRINCE is truly a "Prince Charming" in his suit of lavender trimmed with royal purple. The tunic, which is belted in at the waist, has a plaited white yoke edged with purple fringe and gold braid, and the hem is bordered with purple fringe and gold medallions. The sleeves are full to the elbow, slashed purple over lavender, and the pantaloons are slashed in the same manner after the fashion of mediaeval costume. The Prince also wears a purple cape lined with lavender and edged with ermine, and a big black Cavalier hat faced with purple, turned up at one side, and trimmed with a huge white plume.

Material required:

- 3 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 21, lavender.
- 3 " " " " 23, purple.
- 1 fold " " " " 61, yellow.
- 1 " " " " 11, white.
- 1 " " " " 12, black.
- 1 sheet gold paper.
- 1 roll narrow gold passepartout binding.
- 1 dozen heart-shaped doilies.
- 1 sheet matstock or cardboard for hat.
- 2 extra heavy wires for plume.
- 1 bottle gold tinting fluid.

Cost (including Dennison paste and cloth tape),
\$1.75.

The COUSINS wear short belted tunics and pantaloons, each costume varying in color and form of trimming; one suit may have a bright-red tunic trimmed with blue heart-shaped rings, the belt and trousers being made of black; another can be fashioned in green with pale-green trimmings cut diamond-shaped and a pale-green belt; etc.

Material required, for each costume:

1 fold Dennison Crêpe for tunic.

1 " " " " trimming.

1 " " " " pantaloons.

1 sheet gold or silver paper for buckles.

Cost (including Dennison paste), 45c. for each costume.

The GOODY wears a loose white garment with flowing angel sleeves covering the hands. It should be a bit ragged and worn.

Material required:

2 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 11, white.

Cost (including Dennison paste), 30c.

The WITCH's costume consists of three pieces: tall peaked hat with orange band and silver buckle, a full black skirt torn around the bottom and trimmed with a band of orange, and a black circular cape ragged around the edge.

Material required:

3 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 12, black.

1 fold " " " 65, orange.

2 sheets black matstock for hat.

1 sheet silver paper.

Cost (including Dennison paste and gummed cloth tape), 90c.

The GOBLIN's suit is of bright green trimmed with bands of buff, the short smock belted in at the waist.

Material required:

2 folds Dennison Crêpe No. 43½, emerald green.

1 fold " " " 61, yellow.

1 sheet silver paper.

Cost (including Dennison paste), 45c.

SANTA CLAUS wears the usual red suit and cap trimmed with white fur, and a wide black belt with silver buckle. He wears high top boots, and of course has a white beard.

Material required:

1 fold Dennison Crêpe No. 12, black.

3 folds " " " 83, red.

½ pound white cotton.

Cost (including Dennison paste and glue), 85c.

The BEGGAR GIRL wears a tattered smock of dark brown and a skirt of light brown, both trimmed with bands of blue. The hem of the skirt is ragged and worn.

Material required:

1 fold Dennison Crêpe No. 71, light brown.

1 " " " " 72, dark brown.

1 " " " " 54, blue.

Cost (including Dennison paste), 40c.

The long pointed slippers shown in pictures of the mediæval period would be appropriate for wear in this play by the gentlemen of the cast, and may be secured from Mr. George A. Barnes, 419 Lebanon St., Melrose, Mass.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 08998 099 7

